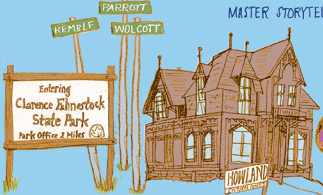


Living Inside Jonathan Kruk's Brain

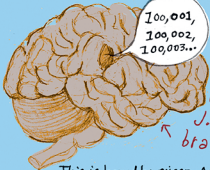
By
Dee
Lucke

Traditional ways to be memorialized for posterity are:
A. Incredible Heroism
B. Generous Charitable Contributions
Follow either of these paths and you may well end up a street, a library, or a hospital wing.

JONATHAN KRUK
MASTER STORYTELLER



A less traditional route is to live a life so colorful, so eccentric, so surprising that you end up a character in one of Jonathan Kruk's stories.



This is how the miser Ashael Bell wormed his way out of obscurity. As Jonathan tells it, Bell owned a lot of real estate...



...but he chose to live in hillside caves around Garrison instead. He'd come down off the mountain with long hair, a thick beard, and rumpled clothes to collect rents. When he was found floating in the Hudson in 1897, his heirs claimed several hundred thousand dollars* were missing. Did he take it with him or is it still hidden in the Hudson Highlands? Coincidentally, Jonathan hikes there a lot.

← listening to stories

Jonathan Kruk's book, *Legends and Lore of the Hudson Highlands*, can be ordered at splitrockbooks.com

Another character that lives in Jonathan's imagination is the American Revolutionary soldier Robert Shurtleff. The beardless youth showed up at Fishkill Supply Depot to join the Fourth Mass Regiment. They headed south to fight the Loyalists in Westchester. Shurtleff took a lead ball to the thigh. The gallant patriot refused treatment and removed it himself with a needle and thread. Shurtleff later served under Lafayette at the Battle of Yorktown. After being discharged, he returned to Massachusetts, married, and gave birth to several children. Robert Shurtleff was also known as Deborah Sampson.



*NOW
The Bird and
The Bottle Inn



She was so busy gawking at George Washington, who had stopped in to dine that she fell up the stairs. General Washington laughed himself silly. He probably needed a giggle at that point.

If you're in search of immortality, an exotic hairdo can help. Nathaniel Parker Willis was the leading magazine writer of his day. He built a home called Idlewild in Cornwall and promoted a Hudson Highlands lifestyle. But it was his man bun over each ear that ensured him a place in the Kruk pantheon.

